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Approved For Release 2001/09/07 : CIA-RDP33-02415A000200350031-6

SAPC-5402  
Copy 4 of 8.

16 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Headquarters, USAF  
AFCOMS-P

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ATTENTION : Colonel [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Proposed Predeployment Press Release

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1. The desirability of a predeployment press release was discussed with [REDACTED] of your office on 5 April. In connection with the timing of the proposed release, it was explained to [REDACTED] that a tentative plan to display the U-2 at a NACA installation (e.g., Moffet Air Base) sometime during the week of 16 April may result in press queries for which we must be prepared. Plans for displaying the U-2 at Moffet remain tentative; however, it was generally agreed that even should this display not take place, a predeployment release would be advisable.

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2. Attached is a draft which represents substantially the release recommended by [REDACTED]. Some slight changes have been made by Mr. Bissell. The draft is now being coordinated with Lockheed. NACA has reviewed the attached version and feels that it is acceptable; however, they desire that their PIO officer, [REDACTED] review and pass on the draft prior to its release.

[REDACTED] is in the process of being cleared, and will serve as the regular project contact with NACA on press release matters.

3. It is requested that you transmit a copy of the attached draft to [REDACTED] for his review prior to meeting with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for the purpose of reaching a firm agreement on the content of the release.

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Colonel, USAF

Attachment: Text of Press Release.

1&2 - [REDACTED]

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- 3 - Proj. Dir.
- ✓4 - Dep. Proj. Dir.
- 5 - Cover Officer
- 6 - " "
- 7 - Reading
- 8 - Chron.

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The Lockheed Aircraft Corporation has built a single engine jet aircraft (using the Pratt and Whitney J-57 engine) of which a number have been procured by the United States Air Force. It has been tentatively designated as the U-2. A few of these aircraft have been made available to the National Advisory Committee for Aviation for conducting a research program designed to observe and measure certain phenomena at high altitudes. Studies will include the effects of cosmic rays, turbulence characteristics especially in the jet stream, temperature structure, wind structure, and the concentration of certain elements in the atmosphere such as ozone and water vapor. The program will be conducted by the NACA with the logistical and technical support of units of the USAF/Air Weather Service. Research activities are presently being conducted in the United States from a restricted area at [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Similar activities will

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[REDACTED] be conducted from certain USAF installations overseas where the Air Weather Service will act as executive agent in the actual conduct of data-gathering operations since the NACA has facilities and personnel only in this country.